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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Forty-first session
10-21 March 1997
Agenda item 7

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON ITS FORTY-FIRST SESSION

Draft report

Rapporteur: Sweeya SANTIPITAKS (Thailand)

Chapter ___

ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Commission on the Status of Women held its forty-first session at United Nations Headquarters from 10 to 21 March 1997. The Commission held ____ meetings (1st to ____). In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 1996/240, the Open-ended Working Group on the Elaboration of a Draft Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women also met.

2. The session was opened by the Chairperson.

3. At its 1st meeting, on 10 March, the Commission held a special ceremony to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Commission and heard an address by the Secretary-General.

4. Statements were made by the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development and the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women.

5. Statements were also made by the Chairperson and by the honoured guests.

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B. Attendance

6. The session was attended by representatives of ____ States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended. A list of participants is contained in annex ____ to the present report.

C. Election of officers

7. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/21, the officers elected to the Bureau of the Commission at its fortieth session would serve as officers during the forty-first session. At its 1st meeting, on 10 March, having been informed that Rafika Khouini (Tunisia) and Karin Stoltenberg (Norway) would be unable to continue to serve as Vice-Chairpersons, the Commission elected two new Vice-Chairpersons. The Bureau, therefore, comprised:

Chairperson: Sharon Brennen-Haylock (Bahamas)

Vice-Chairpersons: Ljudmila Boskova (Bulgaria)
Zakia Amara Bouazia (Tunisia)
Eva Hildrum (Norway)

Rapporteur: Sweeya Santipitaks (Thailand)

D. Agenda and organization of work

8. At its 1st meeting, on 10 March, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda and approved its organization of work, as contained in document E/CN.6/1997/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women:

   (a) Review of mainstreaming in organizations of the United Nations system;

   (b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men;

   (c) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern.

4. Communications concerning the status of women.

5. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, including the elaboration of a draft optional protocol to the Convention.

6. Provisional agenda for the forty-second session of the Commission.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-first session.

9. Also at its 1st meeting, the Commission was informed that Aloisia Woergetter (Austria) would continue to serve as Chairperson of the Open-ended Working Group on the Elaboration of a Draft Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, established in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/29.

E. Appointment of the members of a working group on communications on the status of women

10. The Commission established a working group to consider, under agenda item 4, communications concerning the status of women, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/27. The following five members, nominated by their regional groups, were appointed:

Lily Boeykens (Belgium)
Ana Peña (Peru)
Seyed Hossein Rezvani (Islamic Republic of Iran)
Nonhlanhla Pamela Tsabedze (Swaziland)
Zuzana Vranová (Slovakia)

F. Consultations with non-governmental organizations

11. A written statement, submitted by a non-governmental organization in accordance with rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council (E/5975/Rev.1), was circulated in document E/CN.6/1997/NGO/1.